(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for covering more border areas for security, in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The strength of BSF has been augmented by adding 157 Coys Additional battalions of CRPF have been sanctioned leading to release of 38 Bns of BSF deployed on IS duties to provide the latter with adequate manpower to perform its role of guarding India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.

Amendments in Labour Laws Concerning Woman

*59. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to amend the much awaited labour laws concerning a women;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Government is considering amending a few labour laws based on the report of the Task Force set up by the Ministry of Women & Child Development in the year 2000 to examine various recommendations of the National Commission for Women regarding amendments in labour laws and various other laws relating to women with a view to providing legal equality for women. Government is considering amending the following labour laws concerning a women:—

The workmen's Compensation Act, 1923:—Ministry has agreed to change the title of the Act to the Workers' Compensation Act to make it gender neutral.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986: Ministry has agreed to amend the Act to provide for 33% seats in the Child Labour Advisory Committee for women and inclusion of education of child labour in Section 13 of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979: Ministry has agreed to change the title of the Act to Inter-State Migrant Workers' Act to make it gender neutral.

Factories Act, 1948: The proposal for permitting women to work in night shift in the factories has already been approved and the Bill has been introduced in the Parliament.

As State Governments are appropriate authorities for implementing the labour legislation, amendment in the Acts would require consultations with the State Governments as well as other stakeholders. Ministry has initiated action in this regard.

In case of recommendations with respect to other labour laws, Ministry has issued administrative orders, wherever necessary to the State Governments to provide for greater representation of women in various Committees and Boards and for appointing more women as Investigating Officers and Inspectors under various Acts.

No action is required in the case of Payment of Wages Act, Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 as there were sufficient protective provisions available under these Acts for the legal equality for women.

Branding of Handloom Products

*60. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to brand all handloom products in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir. Government is not considering a proposal to brand all handloom products in the country. However, a scheme, namely, Handloom Mark Scheme has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 28th June, 2006, the purpose of which is to serve as guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is a genuinely hand-woven product and in that sense the Handloom Mark Scheme will provide a distinct identity to the handloom products. Further, Handloom Mark is only optional.

(b) The details of the Handloom Mark Scheme are given in the Statement.